

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BISSAU 00202 131159Z  
ACTION AID-31

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R 130901Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BISSAU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0151

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BISSAU 0202

FOR AF/EPS SEGALL FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAID, PU, CV  
SUBJECT: SPECIAL SELF-HELP FUND FY-77

REF: A) STATE 283289, B) STATE 283307, C) SEGALL/CURRAN OI  
OF 9/13/76

1. I AM MOST DISAPPOINTED WITH NEWS IN REFS A AND B THAT FULL SSH ALLOCATION FOR FY-77 FOR BOTH GUINEA-BISSAU AND CAPE VERDE IS ONLY DOLS 10,000 APIECE. THIS AMOUNT WHOLLY INADEQUATE AND CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN PLANNING FIGURE INDICATED IN REF C HANDED TO ME DURING CONSULTATIONS (I.E. DOLS 5-10,000 PER QUARTER). I HAVE ALREADY APPROVED ONE SSH PROJECT IN EACH COUNTRY AND HAVE FOUND ANOTHER DESERVING ONE IN GUINEA-BISSAU WHICH WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FUND IF DOLS 10,000 CEILING IS MAINTAINED.

2. I FEEL STRONGLY THAT SELF-HELP FUND IS IDEAL TOOL FOR USE IN BOTH COUNTRIES TO WHICH I AM ACCREDITED. IN CAPE VERDE, WHERE WE HAVE NO RESIDENT MISSION, WE HAVE A SERIOUS VISIBILITY PROBLEM, NOT ONLY VIS-A-VIS GOCV BUT ALSO AS REGARDS CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST. VERY WARM REACTION TO SSH FUND BY GOCV OFFICIALS DURING MY RECENT PRAIA VISIT LEADS ME TO BELIEVE SSH CAN BE MAJOR TOOL IN COMBATTING THIS VISIBILITY PROBLEM BY GIVING US FAVORABLE EXPOSURE IN ALL ISLANDS WHERE SSH PROJECTS CAN BE IDENTIFIED. FURTHERMORE, I AM CONVINCED THAT LONG HISTORY OF COMMUNITY DIRECT ACTION PROJECTS AND IMPRESSIVE LEVEL OF CIVIC SPIRIT MAKES RURAL CAPE VERDE IDEAL GROUND FOR EXECUTION SSH PROGRAM.

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3. IN GUINEA-BISSAU, WE FACE AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT PROBLEM BUT ONE WHICH THE SSH FUND IS UNIQUELY SUITED TO DEAL WITH. GOGB HAS BECOME HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS OF WESTERN DONORS OF LATE WHO INSIST ON DETAILED FEASIBILITY AND ENGINEERING STUDIES PRIOR TO APPROVING PROJECTS, AND INSIST AS WELL ON WHAT GOGB FEELS IS DEGRADINGLY HIGH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENT IN AID PROJECTS. THE STREAMLINED PROCEDURES FOR SSH ELIMINATE THESE PROBLEMS AND MAY SERVE TO PROMOTE A MORE COOPERATIVE GOGB ATTITUDE TOWARD OUR MORE IMPORTANT AID PROGRAM. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, WE ARE FACED HERE WITH BACKLOG OF SUSPICION AMONG GB OFFICIALDOM DUE TO PERCEIVED U.S. IDENTIFICATION WITH PORTUGUESE DURING COLONIAL WAR. SSH PROJECTS WITH THEIR UNIQUE DIMENSION OF DIRECT EMBASSY CONTACT WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS ARE USEFUL TOOLS IN DISPELLING THIS ATTITUDE.

4. AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE FOREGOING, ON MY VISIT TO THE "ESCOLA PILOT" IN BOLAMA, I EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HELPING THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS BUILD THEIR OWN DORMITORIES ON THE FORMER PORTUGUESE MILITARY BASE THAT THE SCHOOL NOW OCCUPIES. THE HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS SCHOOL (SECONDARY LEVEL) TO THE PAIGC IS CONSIDERABLE. THE SCHOOL OPERATED OUT OF CONAKRY DURING THE LIBERATION WAR AND BECAME THE MODEL FOR MUCH OF THE EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL WORK THE PAIGC CARRIED OUT IN THE LIBERATED AREAS OF THE COUNTRY. IN TERMS OF FAVORABLE POLITICAL IMPACT ACCRUING TO THE U.S., THIS PROJECT WOULD BE HARD TO BEAT. YOU SIMPLY CANNOT CUT ME OFF AT THIS STAGE.

5. I STRONGLY URGE SSH ALLOCATION FOR CAPE VERDE AND GUINEA-BISSAU BE INCREASED TO MORE REALISTIC LEVEL.  
WELLS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SELF HELP, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 13 DEC 1976  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** EAID, PU, CV  
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